

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Ponnappa):

- (a) Western Railway—21  
Northern Railway—72

(b) Western Railway—These vacancies were set off against the posts which were rendered surplus due to mechanisation and simplification of procedure

Northern Railway—58 vacancies were set off against posts rendered surplus due to simplification, repatriation of staff from deputation and cessation of temporary vacancies. 9 vacancies were filled by staff rendered surplus in Western Railway and absorbed temporarily on this Railway. 5 vacancies were filled by promotion of unqualified staff on seniority-cum-suitability basis.

**Demands of Workers of Bhilai Steel Plant**

5038. Shri Y. S. Kushwaha:

Shri Mahant Digvijai Nath  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:  
Shri Raghuvir Singh Shastri:  
Shri Ram Avtar Sharma:  
Dr. Surya Prakash Puri:  
Shri D. N. Tiwary:  
Shri George Fernandes:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri Hukam Chand Karhwal:  
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal,  
Shri Bai Raj Madhok  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri S. A. Dange:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri Bhogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that much discontentment prevails amongst the workers of the Bhilai Steel Plant as a result of their being lathi-charged,

(b) the reasons for the lathi-charge, the number of persons injured thereby and whether use of tear-gas and

firing were also resorted to on this occasion; and

(c) the demands of the workers and the steps being taken by Government to settle them?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No, Sir. The situation in the Plant and the Township has fully normalised, the production having picked up and attendance being normal.

(b) Lathi charge was resorted to as thousands of workers who had assembled outside the main gate of the Plant since morning of 24th June, 1967, were indulging in stone throwing, wilful destruction of company property etc., and as they were refusing to disperse, despite repeated appeals. Nearly 30 persons were reported to be injured but none seriously. No tear-gas was used nor firing resorted to.

(c) The demands were raised in an haphazard and irresponsible manner and were mostly impossible of fulfilment. One of the demands, that is, abolition of leave rules and grant of similar enhanced leave facilities to all employees as enjoyed before 1st April, 1960 is under consideration of Hindustan Steel Ltd.

**Neiveli Power Plant**

5039. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3461 on the 23rd June, 1967 and state:

(a) the total generating capacity of the Neiveli power plant;

(b) the total amount spent by the Central Government so far on this power project;

(c) how many States are sharing the power generated at Neiveli and what is the share of each State at present;

(d) whether any agreement has been arrived at between these States and the Central Government for sharing the Neiveli power; and